

Town of Washington



News and Calendar

July 2006

Island Rescue Squad Oversight

During the past few months the Town Board has been seeking ways in which to constructively resolve recent controversies within the Washington Island Rescue Squad, while at the same time recognizing the excellent emergency medical services rendered to Islanders, seasonal residents and visitors alike for the past 38 years.

The result of the Board's work has been the engagement of the medical director of the State of Wisconsin, Dr. Keith Wesley as interim medical director of the Washington Island Rescue Squad for a period of at least 60 days, beginning June 27, 2006. Dr. Wesley replaces Dr. Rajesh Patel in this position, while Dr. Patel continues as the Island physician at the North Shore/Washington Island Clinic and will continue to be responsible for providing advanced life support as needed by the Rescue Squad.

In addition, the Board asked the EMS Section of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, under the direction of its chief, Dan Williams, to immediately begin a comprehensive investigation of the Washington Island Rescue Squad's educational requirements, policies and procedures.

These actions were taken with the realization that the existing controversies within the Rescue Squad needed to be addressed and mediated by a professional agency removed from any direct connection to Washington Island. It needs to be stressed that both the Board and the members of the Rescue Squad believe that the participation of the State EMT Section and the State's medical director will be very helpful in assuring the Island of

continued emergency medical care of the highest order.

Underlying the involvement of the state is a proposed long-term plan to have the Rescue Squad work as closely as possible with the Door County Emergency Management Services, without coming under complete County control. This may include having the County's medical director assume responsibility for Washington



Summer at Schoolhouse Beach

Island at the conclusion of the interim period, and having the Squad come under the medical control of the Door County Memorial Hospital Emergency Room at the beginning of each run – as do the ambulance services in the rest of Door County – providing a seamless link with the paramedic squad that meets our ambulance at Northport. When advanced life support is required on Washington Island prior

to transport, it would continue to be rendered by the medical professional on duty at the time. (See next item.)

New Clinic Agreement Goes into Effect

As of July 1, 2006, the new agreement between the Town of Washington and Door County Memorial Hospital/North Shore Medical Clinic has gone into effect. This agreement has been described in detail in a previous Town Newsletter (see the March issue available on the Town's web site). The principal change has been the mechanism to give Dr. Patel the time off that he deserves, while assuring the Island that a qualified medical professional will be available on the Island at all times. This has been made possible by a unique cooperative arrangement between Bellin Health in Green Bay and DCMH, whereby Bellin will provide Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to supplement DCMH physicians and mid-level personnel. These experienced professionals, all of whom are certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, will serve the Island every other weekend, half of the six major holidays, and during the seven weeks annually when Dr. Patel has vacation or continuing medical education. In fact, this system went into effect for the first time on June 28, when Dr. Patel left for continuing medical education.

Revaluation of Island Real Estate to begin

A reassessment of all non-manufacturing property on Washington Island, done by Accurate

Continued on reverse.

Dutton Mackhouse
Town Chairman